

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03252 231713Z

44

ACTION SCSE-00

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P 231030Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8155

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 03252

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO ARCHEOLOGICAL TEAM

1. DR. J. DESMOND CLARK, WHO LEADER UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY ARCHEOLOGICAL TEAM, HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY LETTER TO FACILITATE REMOVAL ARCHEOLOGICAL COLLECTION GATHERED IN ETHIOPIA TO UC BERKELEY FOR ANALYSIS. REQUEST FOR LETTER BY CLARK IS IN RESPONSE TO CURRENT IEG ANTIQUITIES ADMINISTRATION POLICY THAT LETTER OF GUARANTEE FROM PROJECT'S EMBASSY THAT COLLECTION WILL BE RETURNED MUST BE INCLUDED IN APPLICATION TO REMOVE ARCHEOLOGICAL MATERIALS FROM ETHIOPIA. ALTHOUGH CLARK REALIZES EMBASSY CANNOT PROVIDE GUARANTEE OF THIS NATURE, HE BELIEVES US BERKELEY ABLE AND WILLING TO DO SO. ON STRENGTH OF UC WRITTEN GUARANTEE THAT MATERIAL WILL BE RETURNED, EMBASSY PREPARED TO WRITE LETTER THAT WE KNOW UC TO BE REPUTABLE INSTITUTION AND WOULD EXPECT IT TO HONOR COMMITMENT. CLARK HAS SPOKEN TO ANTIQUITIES ADMINISTRATION AUTHORITIES AND FEELS LETTER OF THIS TYPE BY EMBASSY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THEM.

2. IN ORDER FOR EMBASSY WRITE PROPOSED LETTER, WE WOULD OF COURSE NEED ASSURANCE THAT WRITTEN GUARANTEE WILL BE FORTHCOMING. CLARK STATES HIS POSITION AS PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY DOES NOT AUTHORIZE HIM PROVIDE GUARANTEE ON BEHALF US THAT COLLECTION WILL BE RETURNED. HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT CHAIRMAN OF UC BERKELEY ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT DR. GEORGE FOSTER WILL, IF CONTACTED, BE ABLE ARRANGE WRITTEN UC GUARANTEE.

3. CLARK WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT CONTACTING FOSTER

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AND ASCERTAINING WHETHER UC WILLING PROVIDE WRITTEN

GURANTEE TO IEG ANTIQUITIES ADMINISTRATION THAT COLLECTION
WILL BE RETURNED. ACCORDING TO CLARK, GUARANTEE SHOULD
STATE THAT COLLECTION WILL BE STUDIED FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS
AT UC AND THEN RETURNED INTACT (SAVE FOR MICROLIGHIC WASTE
AND COMMUNUTED BONE WHICH IS UNIDENTIFIABLE) TO NATIONAL
MUSEUM, ADDIS ABABA. SINCE UC TEAM SCHEDULED DEPART
ETHIOPIA MARCH 31, WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT CABLE EMBASSY
WHEN ASSURANCES THAT LETTER OF GUARANTEE WILL BE WRITTEN
RECEIVED FROM UC. WE WILL THEN PROCEED WITH OUR LETTER.
INTERESTED PARTY.
WYMAN

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